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In another place, Dr. Packard quotes the fact that Bacteria can be altered by changed environment, but has not Weismann pointed out that the unicellular forms stand upon an entirely different basis from the many-celled species, and that acquired characters must be transmitted among them? Aside from some features like this, Professor Packard's paper must be regarded as a strong presentation of the neo-Lamarekian position.

**Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science for 1893.—**

Among the foremost of the State scientific organizations is the Indiana Academy of Science, the third volume of whose Proceedings is before us. Of its 274 pages, 70 are occupied by the papers read at the annual meeting in the holidays a year ago, among which especially noticeable are the presidential address of Dr. J. C. Arthur upon "The Special Senses of Plants;" E. W. Olive's paper on the "Histology of the Pontederiaceae," and Professor Eigenmann's "Effect of Environment on the mass of Local Species." More important than these is the account of the work outlined and that already done towards a Natural History<sup>2</sup> Survey of the State. Necessarily, the matter presented is preliminary; a getting together of bibliographies and lists of species, but so enthusiastically has the beginning been made, that we doubt not that in a few years the whole Natural History of the State will be adequately understood. For many years Indiana has maintained a so-called geological and natural history survey, but so thoroughly has this been dominated by politics that but little good has been accomplished by it. One geologist would scarcely get the harness on when a new election would put a new person in the office, a condition which has been fatal to any definite policy. But worst of all has been the fact that nominations, for many years past, have been controlled by party pull, fitness for the position not being at all essential. The result has been that since the days of Cox and Collett, the office has been occupied by persons who, no matter how estimable they may be, are unknown to the world of science, and their reports have been scarcely more than a waste of so much good paper. This year it is true, the standard has again been raised, but this is but one of the accidents of a thoroughly pernicious method. The next election is apt to replace the present incumbent by one as ill adapted for the place as some of his predecessors.

<sup>2</sup>Although it includes Geology, the Survey is throughout spoken of as the "Biological Survey."

Now the Academy comes forward with its plans for a complete survey, and in this laudable undertaking it should have every encouragement. With a resident membership of over 100, there is a chance for more thorough and more careful work than can ever be attained in any other way, while, naturally, as long as the Academy has such leaders as Arthur, Butler, the Coulter brothers, Eigenmann, Hay, Mottier, Underwood, etc., we may be sure that fitness, rather than any other qualification, will determine the assignment of special work. With these conditions, would it not be well for the next Legislature to do away with its comparatively useless State Geological Survey and turn over to the Academy, of course with proper restrictions, the funds which are now annually given to the former organization. At any rate, the people of the State should encourage the Academy in its endeavors, and the State itself should be willing to defray at least the expense of publishing results as valuable as these will undoubtedly be.